THE ALMA RECORD

BABCOCK & GROSSKOPF, Publishers Published Every Thursday Afternoon at Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan ELINOR G. BABCOCK, Associate Editor H. S. BABCOCK, Editor

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION WHEN PAID IN ADVANCE copy, one year\$1.50

ADVERTISING RATES ates apply for schedule. Notices of church and Imission is charged, regular advertising rates.

The Record is entered at the postoffice at Alma, Michigan, for transmission through the

A COAL STRIKE CALLED

The United Mine Workers Union has called a coal strike and 526,000 miners have walked out, refusing to dig any more coal. The strike is wide-spread and affects the coal mining industry in more than twenty states.

The bone of contention is the wage agreement. At present the men are drawing \$7.50 per day for an eight hour day and a forty hour week, and they demand the same price for a six hour day and thirty hour week. This means that under the present arrangement, the men draw 93.7 cents per hour actually worked and are demanding \$1.25 per hour actually worked, time and a half for overtime, and double time for Sunday's and holidays. This would mean that all day men would receive \$11.25 per day for eight hours work on all regular working days, and \$20,00 per day for eight hours work on holidays and Sundays. In other words it means an actual increase in the hour wage of about 33 percent, and a decrease in actual time worked per week of about 25%.

Everyone is ready and willing to admit that coal mining is a .hard, disagreeable, dirty business and that the workers should be well paid, but it is also admitted that no one follows coal mining by compulsion, but all are engaged in the work from choice.

About five hundred million tons of soft coal are consumed per interior department reported 139 inyear in this country, hence there is no need of mining more than that amount, as the yearly output, and for the mining of this a little more than a half billion dollars is paid out in wages to the mine workers.

There can be but one answer to the demand for a shorter day and week for the miners, and that is a greater cost per ton to the consumer. In this connection we must take into consideration that the great bulk of consumers are also wage earners in other lines of industry, many of whom draw only three and four dollars 8000 a year. His maximum pay dur- grop in, and the leas of this one day per day, and do not have steady work any more than the miners do, but who work ten hours per day, for the wage they earn, and this old gentleman came into the serve of over one hundred dollars, and I the farmers work long hours to produce crops which are sold at ice. He was born on January 10, have netually known of the a price out of proportion to the cost of coal.

It is not fair and just that one industry should organize and unionize and make demands which bring a burden upon all other branches of industry, and take from fellow laborers a large toll which is out of proportion to their earning capacity.

The placing of a heavier burden upon fellow laborers in other lines of industry is not the only evil effect of the miner's demand. It is much more far-reaching than that. It means that all lines of industry will be compelled to pay a higher price for coal for the operation of factories, and it will prevent many industries from of that accomplished officer. Matthew everything you undertake and the starting or operating and thus deprive many other men of work Fontaine Maury, whom he served as when Gabriel a and his han you will by which they support their families.

The country has been passing through a great crisis. Indus- have heard Maury's voice dictating the try has been at a standstill or struggling along at a loss. A re- words of sense and wisdom which construction is absolutely necessary in order that all labor may be wind and current charts and other employed at a living wage, and our country may begin to progress publications issued from the observagain and pay the great burden of debt which came to us as a re- atory for the benefit of the world. sult of the world war.

The demands of the miners and the calling of a strike at this advanced as follows: time can do nothing else but hinder the return to normal condi- July 1, 1853, clerk at \$1,200 a over minety thousand people have tions by working great hardships upon the laborers in other lines of industry and even upon the miners themselves who must eat \$1,800 a year; December 6, 1911, clerk are maintained by the Salv even if they are idle.

THE DEMORALIZATION OF DELAY

From whatever angle the subject is considered, the delay in tariff legislation is demoralizing to industry. The fiscal year 1920 was the record year in our import trade. That year we imported \$5,238,000,000 worth of foreign goods, a volume which spurred the Ways and Means Committee to pass the Fordney tariff bill last July. The following fiscal year, 1921, there was some let up in the volume of imports, but not so great as was indicated by the decrease in total value because there was a decided slump in prices due in part to falling exchange and in part to lower production costs in Europe. That year we imported \$3.654,000,000 worth of goods or nearly twice the pre-war average. The decrease was somewhat rapid from month to month and the fiscal year opening July 1921, recorded something of a momentum of this decrease, that month \$178,000,000 worth of imports coming in.

And then the needle began to waver and to indicate a movement the other way. In November we imported \$211,000,000 worth, and in December, \$237,000,000 worth of goods. The current year opened with a slight downward trend, but the value of imports for January and February was greater than for the same months last year. Both months of the current year we imported \$217,000,000 worth of goods, while for January of 1921 we imported \$209,000,000, and for February, \$214,500,000 worth of goods. For the eight months of the fiscal year 1922, ended February, we imported \$1,623,000,000 of foreign products, an increase of about thirty-three and one-third per cent over the pre-war figures. If measured by volume the increase would be more marked. And it is the volume of goods which is to be considered in estimating the effect of foreign imports in displacing domestic products and lessening the opportunity for American labor.

The situation is further reflected in our export trade. During the eight months period 1921-22 we exported something less than \$2,500,000,000 worth of goods, or less than one half the exports that I pronounced sentence of death for the same period of 1920-21, but 46 per cent greater than for the 1913-14 period. Here again the values do not tell the real story. since export values have likewise fallen and the disparity in volume of exports, 1921-22 and 1920-21 is nothing like as great as the value disparity. A great many export commodities show as high as a hundred per cent increase in volume, while the values show a decrease, the two periods considered. Nevertheless, there are decreases in certain lines, particularly in manufactured goods. One of the reasons for this is that the manufacturers are marking time. They want to know what Congress is going to do about the tariff and they must know before they can take steps to meet the situation. Another reason is that Europe is not buying so much because she is manufacturing more than a year ago. If business is to get under way and factories are to operate for the employment of American laborers, the tariff question must be settled, and the sooner the better. It is the uncertainty that is killing our industries.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

XVI. WHAT OF THESE OLD MEN?

the secretary of the treasury the num- in our business. ber of employees under them who were | If we use our brains and thereby Every year this is done and the letters tended we should do in everything we the various departments and bureaus ing would be on a much higher plane are printed in the book of estimates of today. appropriations compiled for use by supply bills. Congress never pays the slightest heed to these reports. They are made up year after year, but the inefficient are never fired.

For example, last year the chief ployees of the Treasury department as efficients, and will probably go on re-There are employees of the government in Washington who are totally back home again in the afternoon,

I knew in 1920 one gentleman of nine persons, three of them boys. It life when repeated by many farmers

a small clerkship at the naval observ- business. atory, then under the superimendence Train yourself to be on time amanuensis for ten years, accounting out have to book back upon the warter it a great privilege and pleasure to difetime. make up the sailing directions, the

From a copylst at first, November 9, the fiscal year 1848, at 83 a day, the young man was | 1921?

year; July 1, 1854, clerk at \$1,500 a ceived ald from this organization? year; July 1, 1870, principal clerk at at \$1,400 a year; May 1, 1918, stenographer and typewriter at \$900 a year, It will be seen that he was demoted in December, 1911, and again in May, tions were at his own request. In October, 1917, he received from the assistant secretary of the navy, Mr. Roosevelt, the following letter;

"I have to inform you that you have been granted leave without pay for six months beginning October 13, 1917. "As you have been in the employ of the government now nearly sixtynine years, and during all that time your record has been excellent, I re-

rolls with compensation. the appreciation of the department for to a valuable asset? your long and satisfactory service, and

He said: "I don't know what conknow what I intend to do with those never out!" in my department. I intend to leave them alone. They can stay here as floor of the senate of the U. S., "The is made for them. When I was new the Front in times of peace as well as in the department I dismissed two of in war," so say we, and when the these old people and demoted another, time comes to chip in for the Salvaon the ground that they were super- tion Army-Don't turn them down. annuated and inefficient and were a hindrance to the work.

"All three of them wrote me sad letters and promptly committed sui-That was enough and more will I disturb one of them. I do not choose to have it on my conscience can all stay on here as long as they like. I found them here and some of them will be here when I leave. If parts of a big establishment. congress chooses to provide for them that is its obligation. But I will never sentence another one of them to selfdestruction, no matter what the cost to the taxpayer and the government."

"De troublemaker," said Uncle Eben, 's one kind of manufacturer dat ought to be taxed extra."

The wind-built hills of sand known as dunes, which grow to heights of from 5 to 40 feet along our Atlantic coast, attain much larger proportions in other parts of the world. Dunes 100 to 200 feet high are found in Bermuda and the Bahamas.

The Open Forum

and a south will accept communications for to 300 words in length on matters of community and county interest. Communications in regard to personal controversies, religious discussions and political disputes will not be accepted. All cony must be in not later than Touckey and all communications must be signed.

TRAGEDIES OF THE FARM I heard a sermon a short time ago upon the tragedies of life by humanity making excuses and neglecting the salvation of their souls.

I think that neglect and being behind in what we ought to do is not only a tragedy sometimes in the salvation of our souls but will apply to almost every farmer in every season's

The tragedies which we experience in unsatisfactory results from our la-Congress enacted a law in 1890 re- bors in farming are largely due to quiring all heads of departments and ourselves in not finding out, or if we ndependent establishments in the do know, not complying with the laws federal service to report each year to of nature which God Almighty made

below a fair standard of efficiency, increase their capacity which God into the secretary of the treasury from undertake success in the line of farm-

We all know that our seasons in congress in making up the annual this latitude are short and our farm crops must be nut in in good shane at the proper time for best results.

Ground must be pulverized, tim and firm. We should have good drainclerk of the treasury reported 170 em- at the earliest opportunity the weathage so that we can get on to the soil below a fair standard of efficiency. But should be ready for business when er ocers, and tools and everything

porting them till they die of old age. throughout our country today are on the tragedy side of farm operations by blind and who are led from their not having all farm tools over-hauled, homes to their offices each day and repaired and in first class shape for the best service possible.

I have known the neglect of ninety-two years who had been in the having one farm tool in proper shape government service for seventy-two when needed even on a small farm to years. He was being paid at time time cause the less of a day in getting a ing his long service was \$1800 a year, by a rain or other adverse weather James K. Polk was President when | conditions caused a loss in that crop 1828. His father was a captain of dition by a loss of one day's time the regular army in the war of 1812, getting in a certain crop upon a large. After that service he led an active life farm to cause a loss from four to five In other occupations until 1848, when hundred dollars, and surely such he died, leaving a dependent family of things as these are tragodies in farm

fell to the lot of one of them to be the Brains and muscles in our make up were created by God for the use of It came to pass, then, that at the age humanity, but they must be mixed h of twenty he received through the the proper proportions to got the low influence of pavy friends of his father | results in farming or in fact any other

the state has been benefited by the shattered womanhood and blighter

the Salvation Army, and that over five hundred Bibles have been distrib-

In every one of the larger cities in the U. S. the long arm of the Salvathe man who is down, out of the gret that there is no way in which the fifthy gutters of vice and degradation, department could continue you on the and restoring him back to manhood "I desire at this time to express ing the liability of the community in

In Michigan the Salvation Army the hope that you will be so benefited maintains a Fresh Air Camp where by this leave that you can return and | poor mothers and their children may resume your duties at its expiration," spend a week or two in God's sun-I talked with one of the cabinet shine away from the toil and poverty officers about the old and feeble em- that lurks in the dark recesses of the

city tenements? The slogan of the Salvation Army gress intends to do about them, but I is: "A man may be down; but he is

As a senator from Iowa said on the long as they like, until some provision | Salvation Army, God Bless Them! At

Public Telephonic Announcements. speaking telephone receivers used for Never again announcing trains in a railway station, the service of the government. They ments are sometimes operated from one transmitter, so that simultaneous announcements can be made in all

> Hundreds of Muscles. The human body has been estimated to contain some 446 muscles. The actions of all these muscles are fully understood and described, but there are probably many other muscles and compound actions of muscles which have not yet been tabulated.

> COUGHS CROUP Best for Children and Grown Persons SOLD EVERYWHERE IN ALMA

Record Directory FOR HEADY DEFERENCE

and #150,000 The E. Townsend, Truman

Tart, sal-

Corners, W.

where H. Cares

\$12.50 ner 100 and up

Bird Store





THURSDAY and FRIDAY William Christie Cabanne' "AT THE STAGE DOOR"

Pathe Review

SATURDAY MONTE BLUE

THE PERFECT CRIME Torchy Comedy

SUNDAY and MONDAY MAURICE TOURNEUR Presents

"The Last of the Mohicans" -also-Mack Sennett Comedy

"THE BOAT" Special Matinee Monday at 3:30

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY FRED STONE

Kinograms Vaudeville

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT

"BILLY JIM"

Announcing Alma City Dry Cleaners

New Service

The business of cleaning and dyeing is becoming a scien-

tific process requiring carefully trained help. Our equip-

ment is the very newest, and best for the proper cleaning

and dyeing of clothes and delicate fabrics. Service means answering your call AT ONCE (by motor truck) and delivering the articles WHEN PROMISED,

We Do All Kinds of Dye Work and Repair Work.

fresh and clean as new.

All Work Guaranteed.

Phone 102

Window Style Show

Thursday Evening, April 13 at Eight o'Clock

Spring and Summer Coats, Suits, Dresses and Hats shown on living models.

The Quality Shop

Ithaca

Mich.

"Don't Blow Bubbles, Or Chase Rainbows, Nor Build Air Castles, Try Something Permanent"

WE SELL

Billings-Chapin House Paint, Garden Tools, Auto Tires, Fencing, Farm Machinery, Oil Stoves, Sponges, Muresco, Washing Machines.

Try one of these articles and see if they are not a permanent investment.

J. M. Montigel & Son

General Hardware and Implements